(d) The Government is examining the feasibility of fomulating a comprehensive legislation for discouraging use of tobacco products.

Use of Professional Donors' Blood in Safdarjung Hospital

1025. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Safdarjung Hospital continues to use blood from professional donors, despite Supreme Court's judgement against the use of blood from professional donors;

(b) whether Government are aware of the nexus between the hospital's blood bank and certain contractors for arranging blood for the needy patients for a hefty price; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to check the corrupt practices in the hospital's blood bank, besides taking suitable administrative action against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Blood Bank of Safdarjung Hospital does not collect blood from professional donors.

(b) No such information has been received.

(c) Question does not arise.

Population Control Policy

†1026. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take stringent measures to cope up with the grave situation of increasing population in the country at the earliest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any draft has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when the formulated draft is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) The Government

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

has put in place a National Family Welfare Programme which provides a comprehensive package of services. The Government has already taken several steps to provide Family Welfare Services to the people while also attempting to stabilise the population of the country. Some of the services include:—

(i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and contraception issues, launched in October, 1997;

(ii) Information, Education and Communication Programmes to create awareness about the benefits of small family;

(iii) Provision of contraception through sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres and hospitals;

(iv) Assistance to States/UTs to maintain certain Family Welfare infrastructure;

(v) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations and NGOs for implementing family welfare programmes.

(vi) A National Population Policy is under formulation by the Government.

Space Problem in Central Institute of Orthopaedics

1027. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute of Orthopaedics is one of the few institutions in North India, where people with serious orthopaedic problems come for relief;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rooms are crammed with hospital junks and the corridor is over-crowded and stinking; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide more space to the CIO and to remove the shortcomings existing therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rooms are not crammed with hospital junk. However, the corridor becomes overcrowded during OPD hours due to a large number of patients and attendants.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to provide more space to CIO.